

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Anastasia Burton
(406) 444-5357

Governor Appoints Three New Members to Montana State Library Commission

(HELENA)--- Governor Judy Martz has appointed three new members to the Montana State Library Commission. The new members replace two departing commissioners whose terms expired and one who moved out of state.

Donald Allen of Billings has served as Chair of the Parmly Billings Library Board for the past two years, and has been a member of Board for the last five years. Prior to his involvement on the Parmly Billings Library Board, Mr. Allen was President of the Parmly Billings Library Foundation; he has been a member of that organization since 1994. Mr. Allen, a CPA, replaces David Johnson of Billings, whose term on the MSL Commission expired this month.

Caroline Bitz of Box Elder served as a trustee/board member of the Havre-Hill County Library from 1990 – 2000. From 1998 – 2000, Ms. Bitz served as Chair of the Pathfinder Federation region of the Montana Federation of Libraries. Ms. Bitz, a rancher, replaces Ralph Atchley of Malta, who resigned from the Commission after accepting a position in Wyoming.

Helena businesswoman **Toni Broadbent** serves on several local and state organizations. Ms. Broadbent has had a life-long interest in libraries and the arts, and looks forward to helping the Commission develop successful strategies for the State Library's internal reorganization later this year. Ms. Broadbent replaces Rosemary Garvey of Butte, whose term on the MSL Commission expired this month.

"Libraries are among the most valuable resources local communities offer their citizens," said Governor Martz. "Each of the new commissioners has shown a strong interest in supporting the excellent work of Montana's library professionals. Their expertise and enthusiasm will be great assets as our libraries work toward meeting the changing information needs of a new Montana."

The seven-member State Library Commission establishes policies and procedures for the Montana State Library and also gives assistance and advice to all public libraries in Montana. Members of the State Library Commission also include: Chair Al Randall, Troy; and Gail Staffanson, Sidney; who are appointed by the governor; as well as Bruce Morton, appointed by the Commissioner of Higher Education; and Linda McCulloch, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The Commission's next meeting will be held on June 11 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Bozeman Public Library. The public is invited to attend and meet the new commissioners. For more information, visit msl.state.mt.us and click on the MSL Commission link.

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